




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

MOTION: IPSWICH POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.21 pm): I could understand the member for Ipswich making that speech if it was a speech on an amended motion moved by the government dealing with consultation, but if the member for Ipswich is not aware, the minister's amendment to our motion was not successful. Therefore, we are not debating a motion about consultation, we are debating a motion to retain the Ipswich communications centre in her electorate. That is what we are dealing with.

Mr Costigan: Leave it where it is.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are dealing with a motion to leave it where it is—I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday—leave the Ipswich communications centre where it is. The opposition does not want consultation, we want the government to make a decision and say it is staying and the 27 jobs are secure and stop the uncertainty and the heartache. I can tell members about the heartache. I was out in chilly Ipswich this morning with the honourable Leader of the Opposition talking to the people. We did a press conference. I thank the Police Union for allowing us the opportunity to engage with them and talk to them about this issue. It is a very important issue.

The member for Ipswich says she wants consultation. That is not what she said last week at a protest with 100 police officers. The member for Ipswich cannot say one thing in her community and then come in here and say another thing. The last Labor Party member who did that was Cate Molloy, the member for Noosa, and look what happened to her when she tried this little stunt. She would come in here and vote with the Labor Party and then her community would find out about it. I can assure the member for Ipswich that we will make sure that her community finds out how she voted on this motion.

The motion tonight is simple: do you support the Ipswich communications centre's retention in Ipswich? If you do, vote for the motion. If you do not support the Ipswich communications centre, then vote against the motion. But it will be voting against the motion at your peril, I can assure the member of that. The member for Ipswich West also attended the protest. They stood shoulder to shoulder with men and women in blue from Ipswich and said, 'We will do what we can to save your jobs in Ipswich and to save this centre.' Those two in this House stood up at that protest and made that commitment. They cannot come in here, as the member for Ipswich just did, and say 'I am going to oppose the motion', because effectively by opposing the motion they are opposing their own community. They are opposing the 27 police officers, the men and women in blue and the civilians at that centre, who will no longer have a job.

We know what the real issue is here. The consultation that was undertaken with the Police Union was this: a phone call was made from an assistant commissioner to the Police Union president. A message was left on the Police Union president's phone to give him a call back. Then the minister made the announcement. A message left on the Police Union president's phone was the consultation. The staff did not even know they were about to lose their jobs. The mayor, Paul Pisasale, did not know that he was about to lose the Ipswich communications centre that collaboratively works with Safe City. The

member for Ipswich did not know she was about to lose the communications centre from her electorate. The member for Ipswich West did not know anything about it. They demanded a meeting and they attended the protest. If they are going to stick to the commitment, I say have the courage of their convictions and vote to support their communities, vote to support the police officers.

As I said, the real issue here is there was no consultation. The police minister made the decision. The police minister cannot fool Queenslanders by laying all this at the feet of the Police Commissioner. The police minister would have known about this. She would have been told by the commissioner. The police minister came out and said, 'I can't talk about this. This is an operational matter. It is operational. I can't talk about it.' But then finds five minutes on the clock to talk about an operational matter tonight. When did it not become operational? Was it not operational when the Premier intervened and said the minister did not consult properly? I really need to know from the police minister what is operational in her mind and what is not because there is a fundamental difference between operation in the police minister's office and the Premier's office. Can they not speak to each other in terms of consultation?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: If the member is talking about separation of powers, why did the Premier intervene? She had a lot to say about this matter. We support this motion because we support the men and women in blue at the Ipswich communications centre. We will retain it in government. I urge those members, particularly the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West, to vote to support their communities tonight. Do not consult with the communities, support the communities tonight and vote with this motion.